



Libby Area Technical Assistance Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 53, Libby, MT 59923
January 6, 2004 Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Bob Beagle	Scott Supernaugh	Gayla Benefield
Clinton Maynard	George Keck	JoElyn Bruce
Jerry Hersman	Gordon Sullivan	
Barb Guthneck	Mary Tevebaugh	
Wendy Thom	Charlene Leckrone	
James Christiansen	Rick Flescher	

III. Review and Approval of December 9, 2003 minutes – Bob Beagle moved that the Dec Board meeting notes be accepted, it was seconded and all voted in favor.

IV. Next Board Meeting February 10, 7:00 PM (FVCC, Room 221) – George announced that we have secured a classroom at the Community College for LATAG meetings. He said that we will meet there for the Feb meeting and see if it meets our needs, otherwise, we may continue having meetings at the County Annex conference room in the future.

V. Old Business

A. Budget Status – Barb went over the 20% minimum share of performance, the 20% Admin to total expenditures, Cash flow and the chart that compares Projected vs. Actual Spent TAG Grant dollars. She noted that except for the \$38 she charged in December there were no changes from the charts from the last Board meeting as she had not received the TA's invoice to update them (which was not due until this meeting). She was able to provide the full information at last Board meeting because Gordon had **provided** his financial information early.

T/A Effort – (Jerry Hersman) – Gordon turned in an invoice for \$1488 which reflected a drop from scaling back as a result of the holidays and receipt documents for review in the middle of the month. Jerry said, as agreed upon at the last meeting, he will provide Gordon a base work effort representative of 15 man hours (\$750) per month and authorize additional hours as the need arises for other necessary work. He said we want to make sure we are getting value for money spent and be in control of the expenditures.

Gordon asked for an update on the two amendments that he proposed to his contract. Jerry and George said that they felt that the effort proposed could be done within the framework of existing contract current task direction provisions without formal change. Gordon said that he would like to re-visit this issue as he felt it was conceivable that it might be interpreted that he might be responsible for all document reviews under the schedule of work as he understood it. He said, now with the newly established Document

Review Tiger Team initial scrutiny of documents and direction as to which documents he is to review and comment on and which ones he will not, he would like to make his contract clearer. Jerry and George said that for now, they thought the contract was currently more than adequate the way it was written regarding specific and joint task efforts including direction provisions, and that they were not adverse to future reviews for continued adequacy.

Jerry directed Gordon's hours this month to be spent on writing up a report on Scott's document (Remedial Action Plan). He said he would approve Gordon making a presentation at this month's CARD meeting if Gayla can get him on the agenda. Jerry said he would work with Gordon and set the remainder of his schedule of work for the month.

B. Tiger Team Updates

Education – (Sandy Wagner) – Tabled as Sandy was absent

Survey – (Mary Tevebaugh) – Mary asked that this Tiger Team report be postponed until March.

Home Owner Issues – (Rick Flescher & Red Morton)

Negative report

Document Review – (Clinton, Red, Jerry) – Mary asked Barb for copies of all of the documents that the Document Review Tiger Team was currently reviewing. (Note: Barb delivered these documents to Mary and the one document that Gordon did not have to Jerry the next day.)

C. Policy & Procedure Revision – (Barb Guthneck)

Code of Conduct – Barb read changes made as a result of the last meeting. These will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting pending a quorum.

Clinton wanted to know if this was a federal or state requirement that we all had to sign this. George explained that some of it was required but it was a common sense, good manners and ethics basis that the Board wanted people to agree to the Code of Conduct. Clinton and Rick said they wouldn't sign it and Jerry said they didn't have to.

Attendance - Barb read changes made as a result of the last meeting. These will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting pending a quorum.

George mentioned that some Board members will not be staying on and this will leave openings for at least one Board member opening in March.

Mary asked how we were going to recruit new Board members. Gordon suggested that we reach out to other Asbestos related groups like the CARD and George said that was a good idea. Jim said that EPA could put it in their Q&A, and bring it up at their meeting with community business owners this month.

Rick questioned why Bob Beagle was on the Board. George said because he represents a

different segment of the community than otherwise represented on this Board. Bob said when he leaves this table he isn't as afraid of the threat of asbestos as the rest of the Board. He says he does feel like he is alone in his views when facing this Board. George thanked Bob for being on the Board. He said that we need Bob Beagle on this Board and we need to look at recruiting those of differing views and backgrounds to enable a diverse Board cross section representative of our community.

D. Advocacy

Liability/Risk Review - (Sandy Wagner) - Sandy was absent due to extreme low temperatures so this was tabled until the next Board meeting.

E. Action Item Status/Update – According to Jim, Action Item 1B the Public information/education video is ready for previewing this month and should be finalized shortly. Items 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 20, 22, are all now in the hands of our Technical *Advisor*. George accomplished number 25.

VI. New Business

A. Mt. Dept of Environmental Quality Update – (Craig French)

B. EPA Update – (Jim Christiansen) – Jim announced that Aubrey Miller will be attending some future TAG meetings to answer questions about EPA documents.

Jim said that we will probably only have a 2 week notice, max, on when Governor Leavitt will be coming to Libby.

Jim announced that they will be holding a business owner meeting for those needing EPA to clean up their property. He said anyone is invited to come.

C. Technical Advisor's Update – (Gordon Sullivan) –

Gordon spoke about the need to use scientists, especially on risk assessment and toxicity. He said that while this was tasked in his contract and he has the funding and the ability to hire, he has concerns about how selecting a particular scientist over another might be viewed in the community. He gave examples of Brad Black and Gayla having differing views on Gordon's list of experts. He explained that different scientists can have different views and if he picks the wrong one, it could have disastrous results. Jerry said that Gordon should screen the experts and give us a basis for making a decision and if he felt at some point that he could not recommend experts, he should say so.

Gayla questioned the need for LATAG to hire scientists for toxicity when CARD has already this expertise available through doctors they brought to Libby. She said the doctors are coming back in January for a follow up and could augment the work LATAG is doing. She said the CARD meetings are closed but in her opinion it would be good for her to try to get Gordon on the agenda and possibly attend future CARD meetings. She would talk to the board and get back to Gordon.

Gayla also volunteered herself to attend LATAG meetings as a liaison between CARD

and LATAG.

Mary asked how LATAG was going to get information about EPA documents to the community. George suggested the possibility of combining Gordon's training activity and CAG meeting attendance effort by getting on the CAG meeting agenda for a short informational/educational session each month. He said, CAG meetings are well attended by the public and we wouldn't have to recruit people to come to Gordon's separate training/education sessions that up to now experienced very low turn out. Gordon admitted that he has been shy about opening the door of his training sessions to the public. Mary said that you can't call it community education if you don't let the community in. Gayla said the people waiting to get their property cleaned up will come if you announce that there are decisions pending as to the quality of the clean up and they are stake holders. Gayla thought they would come to a meeting that is open to the public. Jerry said he would like to hold this at a town meeting, if we could be assured it would be successful.

Clinton asked when we were going to write for a subsequent \$50,000 grant. Jerry and George said we will write it when we get close to needing it. George asked Clinton to sit on a committee to write the grant, when the Board decides we are within 3 months of expending the existing grant.

Clinton asked Jim if it will be a problem getting the next \$50,000. Jim said that he has budgeted for \$50,000 per year for Libby for LATAG, if we need it and if we are spending the money well. Clinton asked if after we spend the next \$50,000 if we can ask for \$100,000. Jim said that was a possibility.

Gordon said that EPA is going back to the IRIS model for the Risk Assessment. Gordon said Jim told us at the last meeting that we now have the most important documents for us to review. He said that it will be 2005 before we need to respond on the Risk Assessment.

Clinton said that we need to be proactive rather than reactive on Risk Assessment and get involved now not later. Clinton said we need to get that extra \$50,000 now and fund this effort to the max. Jerry said we will be frugal and spend the money well.

VII. Review and agreement on Action Items generated from this meeting -

OTHER – Gayla had Jerry read the proposed Resolution to be presented to Governor Leavitt when he comes to town and reminded people to write individual letters as well. Since we didn't have a quorum, the Executive Committee met after the meeting to sign the resolution.

Gayla also let us know that Tannis did not get the Environmental Justice grant that she applied for.

Meeting Adjourned